

Ideas to get you started:

1) The Mighty Mississippi

This category is about the living Mississippi River – its wildlife, plant life, scenery, and recreation – and its relationship to you.

Subject possibilities include:

- exploring the river with friends, canoeing, fishing, hiking, biking, or watching the river
- the river as a home for animals – frogs, mussels, beavers, deer, turtles, others – and add a poem about the animal
- birds, bird watching, and the Mississippi Flyway (depict birds you see on the river)
- fish and fishing (idea: portray specific species)
- mayflies or other aquatic insects
- following animal tracks
- thinking of the river as a friend of yours!

2) Caring For the River

Here are some message ideas:

- Drink water? Then care for the river! It's our water source!
- Your street flows to the river!
- Take care of the river like a good friend.
- Do you like songbirds? Save their river habitats!
- We clean up litter so it doesn't end up in the river.
- Use a trashcan and keep our river clean.
- Don't let fertilizers or chemicals get into the river.
- Plant native trees and shrubs.
- Pick up pet waste! Keep our river clean!
- Leave no pollution – use a bike!
- Wash cars in a carwash or on the lawn, not in the street.

3) Big River Journey

- Show what you did or what you saw on the boat trip; include your favorite learning station or activity.
- What did you see or do at Fort Snelling State Park?
- Draw the boat with you and your friends on it viewing birds, animals, boats, river buoys, cityscape, or river confluence.
- Draw a series of “snap shots” of your experiences.
- What birds and wildlife did you discover with binoculars?
- What did you examine with the microscopes?
- What did the river look like from the pilothouse?
- Can you imagine the river's great prehistoric waterfall?
- Did the trip help you imagine people here in the past?
- Did the trip help you make friends with the river?

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
111 East Kellogg Boulevard
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Saint Paul MN 55101-1256

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Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

Big River Art Contest, 2006

Connecting students to the science, heritage,
and stewardship of the Mississippi River
through the practice of art since 1999



Sarah Patrick
Capital Hill Magnet, St. Paul, 2005

Open to all students, grades 4 – 6
Entry deadline: May 31, 2006

Big River Art Contest, 2006

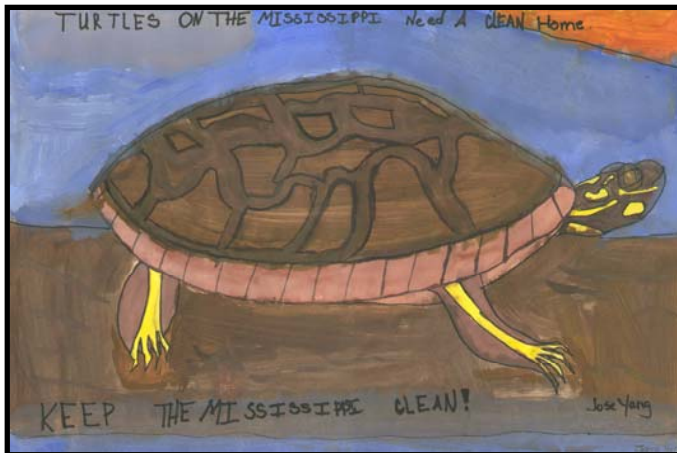
Category themes:

- 1) The Mighty Mississippi
- 2) Caring For the River
- 3) Big River Journey (BRJ)

(NOTE: Category 3 entrants must have been on a BRJ field trip.)

Rules:

1. Entrants must be students in grades 4, 5, or 6.
2. Use one of the three category themes listed above for the subject of your art.
3. Artwork may be created using any of the following: pastels, crayon, watercolor, paint, pencil, colored pencil, pen, printmaking or flat collage.
4. Each student may submit one work of art.
5. All entries must be original, on 11" x 17" paper, flat, and signed.
6. Original poetry or verse may be included in the artwork; a stewardship message may be written on art in category 2, Caring For the River.



Mississippi River Turtle by Jose Yang
Chelsea Heights Elementary, St. Paul, 2005

How to enter:

1. Clearly print on the back of the artwork: **Student's name**, **home address** and **phone #**; **school's name**, **address** and **phone #**; **teacher's name**; and **category theme**.
2. Teachers should submit packets of entries to:

Art Contest
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
111 E Kellogg Blvd, Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256

3. Entries must be received by: 4 p.m., Wed., May 31, 2006.

Prizes:

Winners

- Four prize winners will be chosen in each category. Each winner will receive a certificate, two tickets for a boat ride on one of the Padelford boats, and two tickets to the Science Museum of Minnesota (including Omni Theater).

Grand Prize Winners

- One winner in each category will be selected as a grand prize winner. In addition to the prizes above, each grand prize winner will receive a \$20 check.

Teacher Prizes

- The teacher of one randomly selected grand prize winner will receive a free trip (which may be Big River Journey) for up to 30 students on a boat of the Padelford Packet Boat Co. during the 2006-2007 school year. The two teachers of the other grand prize winners will each receive a free trip (not Big River Journey) for up to 30 students.

Judging criteria and selection of winners:

Works of art will be evaluated and selected based on artistic merit, content (including relevance to chosen theme), and originality. Winners will be selected by Monday, June 5, 2006, and notified by phone (if possible) or mail; prize tickets will be mailed to the home address of each winning student.

Additional information:

Artwork submitted shall become the property of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (National Park Service). Artwork will not be returned. However, non-winning entries may be picked up in person June 7-24, 2006, at the Mississippi River Visitor Center, 120 W Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul. (Ph: 651.293.0200)

Displaying winners' art:

Winning art will be on display in the Mississippi River Gallery at the Science Museum of Minnesota during the 2006-2007 school year. The art will then go on tour and may be displayed at the Fort Snelling State Park Visitor Center, East Coon Rapids Dam Visitor Center, North Mississippi Regional Park, and/or other venues. The winning art pieces will be featured on the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area website:

<http://www.nps.gov/miss/index.html>

Sponsors:

Mississippi National River & Recreation Area (National Park Service), Padelford Packet Boat Co., Science Museum of Minnesota, and Big River Journey Partners.

Further information:

Brian Goodspeed, 651-290-3030 ext. 297
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area